

The Moses Hatfield House
21 De Hart Street
Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-695

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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N.J.

14-MORTO.

11-

The Moses Hatfield House
21 De Hart Street
Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey

Owner (and occupant): William H. Thompson

Date of Erection: 1832-1836

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Moses Hatfield, original owner

Present Condition: Original, with modern dormers and tile roofing; large two story addition on west side is modern, as shown on survey drawings

Number of Stories: One and one-half over cellar; with one story leanto rear shed

Materials of Construction:
Foundation - stone masonry
Exterior walls - timber frame, clapboarded
Interior walls - lath and plaster on frame
Chimneys - brick, built inside gable end wall
Roof - gable; modern tile roofing; leanto has tin roofing

Historical Data:

The deduction of the name of the original owner of this house and its date as above stated is made from two deeds, the one conveying a 78/100 acre lot at the west corner of De Hart and Canfield Streets in Morristown to him, dated 10 November 1832, for \$250, and the other conveying the same from him, dated 7 June 1836, for \$3000. The difference in the amounts of the two consideration moneys indicates improvement of the lot by erection of a building.

The title to this lot has been traced back from the present owner to a record made in 1749 in order to recover data on this important section of

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the historic borough, and the results are reported as follows:

By deed of 23 October 1749, one Jonathan Osborn, yeoman, of Morristown, conveyed to Ezekiel Cheever of same place, for 50 Pounds a 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre tract there having a 726 foot frontage on the southeast side of the "county road" (now Market Street or Bank Street) and 1320 feet on the southwest side of property "late of Benjamin Hathaway" (now South Street), opposite the center square or "green".

Cheever conveyed the 10 acres upper half of this tract to Thomas Kinney, Esq., also of Morristown, for 200 Pounds by his deed of 25 November 1773, in which it is described as fronting northwest on the "road leading from Kinney's house to Basking Ridge".

The next record of this tract appears in a "Plan of Morristown by Survey ordered by General Washington" in 1777(a), in which the continental stores (later known as O'Hara's Tavern) are shown in the northeast corner of this tract, opposite the Green, and Lieutenant Colonel William De Hart's house (Dr. H. N. Dodge 1905) further down South Street from the Green.

This Thomas Kinney and wife Elizabeth by deeds of 1st April 1783, he being then of Newark, New Jersey, conveyed some 9 acres of the 10 mentioned to Silas Howell of Morristown, for 550 Pounds "Proclamation money of New Jersey". The land is therein described as fronting northwest on the road from Morristown to Basking Ridge (Market or Bank Street) and northeast on a road and the "west side of Morristown Green". Kinney also conveyed to Howell, by deed of 1st August following, the remaining 10 acres of the original tract, describing it as fronting on the southwest side of "the road that leads from Morristown Green to John Brookfield's

(a) A. A. Sherman, Historic Morristown, New Jersey, publ. 1905, p. 24 of appended illustrations.

Esquire," (South Street) exclusive of a small lot owned by one Michael Connor near the center of that frontage.

Silas Howell, Esq.(b) abovenamed, with his wife Hannah, of Morristown, conveyed to William De Hart Esq.(c) of same place a 4 acre lot from this tract by deed of 1st July 1789, for 100 Pounds, describing it as having a frontage of 132 feet on the southeast side of the "road leading from the Court House to Dr. Samuel Tuthill's (South Street) and a depth of 1050 feet.

By deed of 24 March 1791, De Hart acquired from George Tusker of Morristown the 3 acre lot adjacent on the southeast line thereof, with a house thereon mentioned, in consideration of 560 Pounds, New Jersey money, the lot having same depth as the 4 acre one and a street frontage of 132 feet. Colonel De Hart devised his real estate to trustees with power to sell the same, by his will dated 28 October 1795, and accordingly after his death they sold and conveyed the 7 acres to William Campfield by deed of 13 February 1802. He passed title to the widow, Elizabeth De Hart on 29 June following. She died on 18 April 1828 aged 75 years, having devised her estate to a brother, Leonard Bleeker, and to the widow of another brother, Anthony L. Bleeker, equally.

The last named devisees, being of New York City, conveyed to Dr. Silas C. Cutler(d) of Morristown

(b) Silas Howell, Capt. 1st N.J. Regt. Continental Troops, resigned 1779. (F.B. Heitman, Historical Register of the Officers of the Continental Army during the War the Revolution, 1775-1783, p. 304.

(c) William De Hart, b. 7 Dec. 1746, d. 16 June 1801, bur. in 1st Presb. Cem., Morristown, son of Dr. Matthias De Hart, was licensed attorney 1767, counsellor-at-law 1771, Major of 1st N.J. Battalion of Continental Troops Lieut. Col. 2nd, ditto 1777, resigned 1781. (Heitman cited above, p. 192. W. W. Munsell & Co. Hist. Morris Co., N.J. 1882, p. 24)

(d) Silas Condict Cutler, physician, b. 13 Jan. 1802, son of Joseph and Elizabeth P. (Cook) Cutler, mar. 12 Nov. 1829 Sarah D. Vail. (History of First Pres. Church of Morristown, part II.)

for \$1800 by deed of 9 February 1830, 5 acres of the lot, describing it as bounded northeast by South Street, southwest by Doughty Street and as crossed lengthwise by De Hart Street and breadthwise by Canfield Street (now Maple Avenue). Dr. Cutler having thus come into possession of the Colonel De Hart house on South Street, supposedly occupied it. That house, incidentally, is said to have been the one owned by Dr. Henry N. Dodge 1905.(a)

By deed of 10 November 1832, Dr. Cutler abovenamed, with wife Sarah D., of Morris Township, conveyed to Moses Hatfield of same place, for only \$250, a 3/4 acre lot from the 5 acre De Hart property, describing it as having a frontage of 137 feet on the southwest side of the center of Canfield Street and of 258 feet on the northwest side of the center of De Hart Street, at their intersection. Evidently, this grantee Moses Hatfield built thereon the house here surveyed. For, by deed of 7 June 1836, he and his wife Margaret L., of Morris Township, conveyed the same lot to James Cook, of same place, for \$3000.

This James Cook and his wife Ann, of Morris Township, conveyed a half interest in the lot as 1.035 acres to Dr. Lewis Condict of same place for \$2300 by their deed of 1st May 1839, and the remaining half interest to him by their deed of 29 October 1849, at which date grantors are described as resident in Terre-Haute, Indiana.

Having thus come into full possession of the property, Dr. Condict(e) held the same until 2 July 1853, on which date he conveyed the part of it having the 137 frontage on the center of Canfield Street and 115 on that of De Hart Street, to George T. Cobb, a

(e) Lewis Condict, M.D., d. 26 May 1862 aged 89, having mar. 1st Martha Woodhull who d. 22 Oct. 1820 and 2nd Martina Elmendorf who d. 10 Aug. 1851. (Hist. First Presb. Church, Morristown, II, 43.) He was an eminent physician of Morris County, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Sheriff of Morris Co. 1800, presdt. of the Morris and Essex R.R., member of the Legislature 1805-10 and 1837-38, Congressman 1811-1833, trustee of Princeton College 40 years. (The Condit Genealogy, p. 184). Dr. C. lived 50 yrs. in house on South St., occ. 1883 by Rev. Twining, per biogr. publ. in the Record, 1st Pres. Ch., Morristown, 1883, pp. 89-91

merchant "formerly of New York City, now of Morristown", for \$1600, describing the property as a "dwelling house and garden at the junction of Canfield and De Hart Streets," Morristown, and as being "now in possession of Mrs. Mary Halsey."

This grantee Cobb conveyed the same property to the tenant, Mary A. Halsey and to her niece Mary E. Mc Goldrick at the same price, by his deed of 7 February 1854. Mrs. Halsey devised her estate to her two nieces Mary E. and Rosina J. Mc Goldrick by her will dated 9 April 1855 and proved 29 May 1860.

By deed of 19 June 1916, the surviving devisee and heir-at-law, Rosina J. Headley (Mrs. Benjamin Headley) conveyed the property to William H. Thompson, both parties being of Morristown, and he remains as owner thereof at the time of our survey of the house in April 1941.

Reference:

Search of title in Morris County records
by James Hanlon, H.A.B.S. abstractor,
reported 1st March 1941

Leers D. Cook

Supervising Historian 20 May 1941

Approved:

Seymour Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

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